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Organizational matters

Report on the first regular session 2004 (23 to 30 January 2004, New York)

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I. Organizational matters

1. The first regular session 2004 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 23 to 30 January.

2. The Executive Board elected the following members of the Bureau for 2004:

President: H.E. Mr. Abdullah M Alsaidi	(Yemen)
Vice-President: Ms. Gabriela Tanjala	(Romania)
Vice-President: Mr. Marco Balarezo	(Peru)
Vice-President: Mr. Thure Christiansen	(Denmark)
Vice-President: Mr. Félix Mbayu	(Cameroon)

3. Upon his election, the new President made an introductory statement that was posted on the web site of the Executive Board secretariat at www.undp.org/execbrd.

4. At the session, the Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for its first regular session 2004 (DP/2004/L.1 and Corr.1), as orally amended, and its annual work plan 2004 (DP/2004/CRP.1). The Executive Board also approved the report on the second regular session 2003 (DP/2004/1).

5. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2003 appeared in document DP/2004/2, while decisions adopted at the first regular session 2004 were included in document DP/2004/15, which could be accessed on the web site of the Executive Board secretariat at www.undp.org/execbrd.

6. The Executive Board agreed in decision 2004/12 to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 2004:

Annual session 2004:	14 to 23 June 2004 (Geneva)
Second regular session 2004:	20 to 24 September 2004

7. With regard to reporting at the annual session of the Executive Board, the Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships, informed delegations that the annual report of the Administrator 2003 would provide synthetic aggregate information on programme results and achievements, and focus specifically on the final status of the Administrator's Business Plans, 2000-2003.

8. He added that, in accordance with a request by the Board, UNDP, in collaboration with UNFPA and UNIFEM, would provide the Board with joint proposals for a harmonized reporting structure for the results-oriented annual report (ROAR), which if approved by the Board at its annual session in June 2004 would set the pattern for future reporting.

Statement by the Administrator

9. The Administrator opened his presentation to the Executive Board by remembering UNDP staff members who had died while serving the organization, and reaffirmed his commitment to taking the necessary steps to protect staff in the field.

10. Delegations requested that in future sessions a hard copy of the Administrator's address to the Executive Board be provided to delegations in advance to allow for more tightly focused deliberations.

11. They commended the Administrator for a clear, concise opening statement that eloquently outlined the main challenges facing UNDP in the coming years. They were particularly heartened by what they termed his visionary strategy and forecast for the work of the organization in the coming decade leading up to the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) deadline of 2015.

12. Delegations concurred with the Administrator's focus on a number of key areas necessary to ensure the continued, strengthened relevance of UNDP in a rapidly evolving international environment. Those included the promotion of a mutually reinforcing relationship between the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP) and the MDGs; a clear definition of UNDP product lines in capacity development; addressing crisis and post-conflict countries; engaging with the private sector to achieve the MDGs; and strengthening the roles and capacities of the resident coordinator system. The success of capacity development, they added, was closely linked to the agenda of simplification and harmonization.

13. Many delegations felt that the Administrator correctly identified the MDGs as a critical focus area for UNDP, and repeated calls for ramping up efforts to achieve the 2015 target. They called for continued work on private-sector partnerships, arguing that UNDP had a unique role to play as networker, liaison and coordinator in development activities.

14. Delegations highlighted challenges facing UNDP and asked the organization to be vigilant in monitoring them. In the context of its efforts to regionalize, for example, UNDP should avoid developing different approaches in different regions. And considering the shift by some countries from relief to development assistance, UNDP should develop more transition-related programmes. Some delegations expressed a need for UNDP to continue resource mobilization efforts for countries in crisis and continued needs assessments and conferences.

15. They took note of the continued efforts of UNDP to streamline and harmonize the resident coordinator system, and many credited their UNDP representatives with excellence in communication, creative thinking and effective interaction within their countries.

16. In response, the Administrator reassured the Executive Board that regionalization efforts by UNDP were not jeopardizing centralized management. He stressed that efforts of the United Nations Development Group were a continuing and critical issue for UNDP and the entire United Nations system. He recognized the need to promote the positive work of UNDP in wider circles based on its product lines, and noted that the days of a 'piecemeal approach' to development were over.

UNDP segment

II. Evaluation

17. Delegations thanked the Director, Evaluation Office, for introducing the item and the Associate Administrator for his presentation on the management response to the assessment of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) reports (DP/2004/3).

18. They welcomed the report as a catalyst for bringing about improvements and tracking progress on the MDGs. They felt that a pragmatic approach should be taken as countries have varying resources and varying reporting capacities in preparing the reports. Some delegations expressed a need to avoid duplication and wanted a stronger MDG-poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP) link. There was a request for UNDP to report at the annual session in June on ways of improving statistics, and provide proposals for developing a stronger management response in the future. One delegation queried why the report contained little information on gender, and suggested that a common format be established for reporting on MDG goal 8 on creating a global partnership for development. Another delegation asserted that caution was necessary when discussing goal 8 as countries viewed its objectives and purpose differently.

19. The Director, Evaluation Office, the Associate Administrator and the Poverty Group Leader, Bureau for Development Policy, reassured delegations that the organization was working hard to align the PRSPs with the MDGs, and that an MDG monitoring committee had been created that was regularly updating the Secretary-General on progress. They affirmed that the organization was giving top priority to raising awareness about the MDGs throughout the United Nations system – especially for resident coordinators to ensure the operationalization of the MDGs at the country level.

20. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/9 on the management response to the assessment of the MDG reports.

III. Multi-year funding framework

21. Delegations thanked the Associate Administrator for a highly detailed presentation to the Executive Board on the proposals for reporting on the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) (DP/2004/4). A number of delegations reiterated the importance of the MYFF as an integrated performance framework, and supported the intention of the Board to use it for strategic planning and oversight of the organization. Many agreed that the MYFF provided strategic direction for UNDP and acted as a roadmap for the organization. The reporting proposals, it was felt, should be viewed within that overall context.

22. Several delegations strongly endorsed the proposals for reporting, commenting on the 'cutting-edge', sophisticated methodologies used in the proposals in order to focus on the key elements necessary for effective Executive Board oversight of the MYFF. A number of delegations urged the associated funds of UNDP, in particular the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Capital

Development Fund, to consider the methodologies followed by UNDP, and to try to harmonize approaches as far as possible. Some sought information on the links between the MYFF and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, while others felt that further clarification on the difference between outcomes and outputs would be useful.

23. Several delegations recognized that the MYFF reporting proposals should be viewed as a 'work in progress', within the context of the overall approach articulated in the proposals. It was up to UNDP to develop detailed benchmarks and indicators to operationalize the approach, keeping in mind the need to have a framework that was flexible enough to accommodate an ever-changing development environment. Among the specific comments was a request that the provision of adequate substantive information not be sacrificed as a result of efforts to keep reporting brief and succinct. Delegations noted the conceptually elaborate and technical nature of the reporting methodology, cautioning however that it should not result in additional reporting burdens on country offices and national counterparts. The Associate Administrator, in his response, reiterated that simplification and ease of implementation would be of paramount importance in that respect. A number of delegations expressed an interest in taking part in consultations, on an informal basis, as the process moved forward.

24. Delegations appreciated the distinction drawn in the MYFF between organizational effectiveness and development effectiveness. In that context, they asked UNDP to continue efforts to measure the longer-term impact of UNDP programming activities at the country level.

25. Some delegations asked for clarification on the elimination of the separate report to the Executive Board on thematic trust funds, as they felt that it was important. UNDP was asked to ensure that the Board receive adequate information – both quantitative and substantive – on thematic trust funds.

26. Some delegations requested that the Executive Board be provided with an outline, or "mock-up", of the next results-oriented annual report (ROAR) at its annual session in June 2004. They also hoped to see in the next ROAR 2005 more information on how UNDP was working to strengthen the resident coordinator system. There was also a request for a management response in the ROAR itself to the issues raised by UNDP in the document.

27. Several delegations voiced broad appreciation of the participatory and consultative approach that had been followed by UNDP in developing those proposals, in particular in reflecting the concerns of Executive Board members. It was hoped and requested that a similar process be continued in the future.

28. The Associate Administrator took note of the positive comments on the MYFF, acknowledging the need to harmonize various MYFF documents and link the MYFF with the Millennium Development Goals.

29. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/1 on the proposals for reporting on the multi-year funding framework.

IV. United Nations Development Fund for Women

30. Delegations commended the Executive Director for her coherent, informative statement in which she introduced the UNIFEM multi-year funding framework (MYFF) (DP/2004/5) and the report on progress, gaps and lessons learned in implementing the Strategy and Business Plan, 2000-2003 (DP/2004/CRP.3).

31. They expressed support for the strong work of UNIFEM and noted the link between its ongoing efforts, the Beijing Platform for Action, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Security Council resolution 1325 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In emphasizing country ownership, it was suggested that gender-related programming should only be provided upon government request.

32. Delegations reaffirmed the central role of gender in development activities, underlining that pursuing sustainable development without addressing its gender dimension would ultimately lead to failure. One delegation emphasized the irreplaceable advocacy role of the Fund, adding, however, that advocacy was not a substitute for gender mainstreaming by other agencies throughout the United Nations system. One delegation requested further information on how UNIFEM intended to enhance its role as catalyst in the future. The same delegation also asked whether the Fund's services were regularly solicited by other United Nations organizations or if it needed to promote them.

33. Numerous delegations expressed full support for the focus areas of UNIFEM as outlined in the MYFF and many of those countries, both donor and programme countries, called on Member States to continue to support UNIFEM by giving it the resources it required to carry out its work. One delegation asked for a better balance of regular (core) and other (non-core) resources, while at least one felt that the focus areas were slightly broad and requested that the organization sharpen them.

34. Many delegations underlined, however, that resources alone would not achieve the desired results. All United Nations organizations, they stressed, would have to coordinate their efforts to ensure the implementation of gender-related programming, with each agency individually accountable.

35. Delegations underlined the need for UNIFEM to provide technical assistance and build national capacity in gender-related issues, especially at the legislative level. One delegation stated that gender focal points throughout the United Nations system also required greater knowledge and capacity training to provide appropriate advice.

36. A number of delegations called on UNIFEM to expand the extent to which it partnered with international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, the international financial institutions, and other United Nations organizations to expand the reach of its activities and its funding base. A couple of delegations suggested that UNIFEM was the agency of 'now and the future' and that it should continue to work to impact women's human rights positively as well as strengthen global gender equality and gender mainstreaming.

37. Delegations felt that in future sessions the Executive Board should focus more attentively on gender-related issues. They urged UNIFEM to enhance the visibility of its reports, as done with *Women, War and Peace*, and requested further

clarification on how the Fund disseminated its knowledge throughout the United Nations system. One delegation indicated that improved, regular reporting could help to ensure stable contributions from donor countries.

38. One delegation pointed out that UNIFEM draws its mandate from the Executive Board, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Seeking Security Council involvement in UNIFEM activities, it asserted, would be therefore inappropriate. The delegation nevertheless felt that the role of the Fund within the United Nations system should be strengthened.

39. One delegation requested further clarification on how UNIFEM monitored its programming activities at the field level to ensure their implementation and positive outcomes.

40. Delegations also emphasized the importance of including gender on the agenda of peace negotiations and in post-conflict peacebuilding, noting the exemplary role played by UNIFEM in Afghanistan and via the Trust Fund for Human Security.

41. In response, the Executive Director thanked the Board for its support and guidance, and confirmed that UNIFEM would continue to focus on strategic and effective partnerships in its areas of comparative advantage. She also stressed its role as catalyst and innovator, which would help to continue strengthening the grounds for women's empowerment. She also acknowledged that partnerships, including those with the private sector, must grow and with it, an expansion of the resource base.

42. The Executive Director also touched on the role of men, and their increasing leadership involvement in moving the organization's work forward. She spoke of women and war, and UNIFEM efforts to bring women's knowledge to the forefront, especially when drafting peace plans. The Executive Director concluded by adding that UNIFEM was working to bring about a transformational agenda.

43. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/10 on the UNIFEM multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007.

V. Country programmes and related matters

44. In introducing the item on country programmes, the President reiterated that in accordance with decision 2001/11 country programme would be approved at each first regular session in January on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion, unless at least five Board members had informed the secretariat in writing before the meeting of their wish to bring a particular country programme before the Executive Board.

45. The Executive Board approved, on a no-objection basis, the country programmes for Benin, the Central African Republic, Croatia, Djibouti, Ecuador, Kenya, Lithuania, Niger, Pakistan, Poland, the Republic of the Congo, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone and Thailand.

46. In line with established practice, the Board took note of the one-year extensions of the second country cooperation frameworks (CCF) for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea and of the first extension of the first subregional cooperation framework for the countries of the Organisation of Eastern

Caribbean States and Barbados, approved by the Administrator. The Board also approved a two-year extension of the second CCF for Guyana and a one-year extension of the second cooperation framework for technical cooperation among developing countries.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

47. With regard to the extension of a CCF for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, three delegations requested that UNDP ensure that its monitoring arrangements were adequate so that resources could not be utilized for other purposes not envisaged under the projects. One delegation regretted the lack of human rights monitoring in the programme. Delegations also requested that the Executive Board be kept informed on arrangements for monitoring of UNDP assistance in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

48. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, responded to delegations comments and queries on the request for the extension of the CCF for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He stated that the UNDP monitoring system was already in place and that measures were being taken to strengthen the system. One major measure being taken was that for the programme extension period all project proposals would be vetted and approved at headquarters in New York. He further assured delegations that UNDP programme financing was strictly being used for humanitarian and development interventions within the scope of the approved CCF for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He reassured delegations that UNDP took the monitoring of CCF activities in the country very seriously.

Assessment mission to Myanmar

49. The Executive Board took note of the statement by the Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, and the Resident Representative, introducing the note by the Administrator on assistance to Myanmar (DP/2004/8). The note highlighted the major strategic challenges and recommendations of the 2003 independent assessment mission of the Human Development Initiative (HDI) in Myanmar.

50. One of the major challenges was the limited scope of UNDP activities in Myanmar. While HDI projects continued to have an impact on the well-being of the most vulnerable and suffering in the country at the present time, with its limited resources, UNDP was only able to reach approximately 3 per cent of the population. The Resident Representative called for geographical expansion of HDI activities together with an enabling policy environment and assistance from the international community to address the larger poverty needs in the country.

51. Delegations were pleased that UNDP activities in Myanmar continued to be implemented in full compliance with the respective Governing Council and Executive Board mandates. They expressed appreciation for UNDP HDI activities and acknowledged the need for greater international cooperation and the expansion of humanitarian assistance in parallel with additional resources. In that regard,

delegations reiterated their support and interest in the proposed United Nations strategic framework for expanded humanitarian assistance that was in the process of being finalized.

52. While noting the parameters within which UNDP assistance was being carried out, delegations also acknowledged the value of the assessment mission's recommendation that UNDP was well positioned to promote a supportive policy environment for pro-poor development. In that respect, it was noted that such an environment would provide a sound basis for sustainability of current HDI activities, including micro-finance and the ongoing comprehensive poverty surveys and assessments under HDI phase IV.

53. Two delegations, observing that paragraph 4 of the draft decision should include 'and implement' after 'take account of', suggested that the text be modified accordingly to accurately reflect discussions among delegations. Another delegation, however, objected to any modifications on the grounds that delegations had already agreed on the final text that was submitted to the plenary. The Executive Board finally adopted the decision, taking into account the comments of the three delegations.

54. One delegation expressed caution with regard to the development of a legal and regulatory framework to support poverty, and felt that it would be better if that were done in harmony with progress on the roadmap of the Government. Delegations were also appreciative of efforts by the Resident Representative to strengthen dialogue with the international community. They commended the expanded theme group mechanism that had been established to address HIV/AIDS in the country, and encouraged UNDP to explore similar models for broader assistance in other areas.

55. Finally, as indicated in the Assistant Administrator statement, delegations took note that owing to the unavoidable late start of HDI phase IV projects, operational activities would conclude in December 2005, not in 2004 as had been originally envisaged under Executive Board decision 2001/15.

56. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/2 on assistance to Myanmar.

VI. United Nations Office for Project Services

57. Delegations thanked the Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), for his presentation of the reports on the implementation of the 2003 budget (DP/2004/6) and on the implementation of the change management process (DP/2004/7). They reiterated their support for UNOPS in its ongoing efforts at change management and appreciated the new spirit of enterprise in the organization.

58. Delegations welcomed the positive financial performance of UNOPS in 2003, and noted with appreciation that the organization was carrying forward an operating balance of $16.6 million into 2004. They also welcomed the process of reorganization and decentralizing of UNOPS operations, the expected benefits of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system – Atlas – and the future creation of a Director of Support Services post at the D2 level, as endorsed by the Management Coordination Committee.

59. Many delegations expressed cautious optimism about the future of UNOPS but wanted continued dialogue on the expansion of the business mandate. Many delegations voiced support for a direct UNOPS relationship with regional banks, although one wondered about the positives and negatives. One delegation expressed reservations regarding UNOPS working directly with governments.

60. For the annual session of the Executive Board in June, several delegations requested updated financial data and budget estimates. One delegation called on UNOPS to define its expanded mandate and mission, explain the modalities for a new fee-setting mechanism, outline fee proposals that ensure exact cost recovery for project execution, describe the new organizational structure and provide further information on the role of the proposed new Director of Support Services.

61. In response, the Executive Director addressed some queries raised during deliberations. In particular, he stressed the need for an intensive review of portfolios, accelerated business acquisition, the creation of a new management team, and the significant amount of resources required for the change process, in particular for staff relocation and profiling. He noted that besides UNOPS regular services provision, crisis situations also provided UNOPS with the opportunity to offer services and thus were opportunities for generating income. With regard to staff issues, he reassured the Board that the organization was making every effort to be transparent, helping staff through the transition period and treating them with respect.

62. He closed by assuring the Board that requests for more information at the annual session would be fully complied with. He concluded with clear expectations for UNOPS performance in 2004 and outlining the reports he would present to the Board at the annual session in June, including details on the new organizational structure and location of functional units. He also welcomed the suggestion of one delegation regarding the idea of a separate UNOPS segment at future Board sessions.

63. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/3 on the United Nations Office for Project Services.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

VII. Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

United Nations Office for Project Services

64. Delegations thanked the Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), for updating the Board on existing activities based on recommendations by the Board of Auditors, including a strategic advisory team for business acquisition to develop a medium-term strategy for UNOPS business, a strategic advisory team to address issues of cost recovery and improving methodology for a more transparent system for the calculation of the cost of UNOPS services. They also noted the implementation of Atlas (Peoplesoft) and opportunities

for improving control and efficiency in resource management, better tracking tools for projects and improved reporting capacity.

65. The Executive Board took note of the follow-up to the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2001-1002 (DP/2004/10).

United Nations Development Programme

66. Delegations thanked the Associate Administrator for introducing the UNDP report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors (DP/2004/11). One delegation, on behalf of several delegations, stressed the importance of taking timely and adequate action to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors. The delegation sought clarification on a number of outstanding recommendations: the status of service-level agreements between UNDP and UNOPS as well as between UNDP and UNFPA for the central support services UNDP provides to those organizations; the issuance of a fraud prevention strategy; and an update on the costing study for the end-of-service medical regime. One delegation considered that the reports should focus on the most significant among the recommendations.

67. In response, the Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau of Management, reassured delegations that UNDP gave top priority to implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors. The organization adopted the Enterprise Resource Planning system, he explained, in part to enable it to have better and more timely information to meet the requirements of the Board of Auditors. He affirmed that setbacks in implementing the recommendations were mainly a question of the timing of reporting on national execution, and not a lack of control on the part of UNDP. He confirmed that service level agreement had indeed been signed among the organizations and that the remaining outstanding items were complex, inter-agency initiatives that were requiring greater effort than originally anticipated.

68. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/4 on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors.

United Nations Population Fund

69. The Deputy Executive Director (Management), UNFPA, introduced the report entitled Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2000-2001: Status of implementation of recommendations (DP/FPA/2004/1).

70. Delegations stressed the importance of expeditious follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and underscored that funds provided by donors should be fully accounted for and utilized for the specific intended purpose. Delegations asked if the UNFPA service-level agreements with UNDP had been concluded and inquired about the status of the fraud prevention plan.

71. The Deputy Executive Director (Management) emphasized that UNFPA took the recommendations of the Board of Auditors very seriously, including follow-up with country offices. She stated that a focus on accountability had been a key component

of the Fund's transition exercise and the organization's annual priorities. She noted that all pending service-level agreements with UNDP had been signed. The Director, Division for Oversight Services, UNFPA, stated that the three-agency effort to develop a fraud prevention strategy was a complex exercise and was expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2004. She also informed the Executive Board that action on the majority of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the 2000-2001 biennium had been completed or would be completed imminently.

72. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/4 on UNDP and UNFPA: Recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors.

VIII. Report to the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Development Programme

73. Delegations thanked the Associate Administrator for his presentation on the UNDP report to the Economic and Social Council (E/2004/4-DP/2004/12). They commended UNDP for a clear, concise report, while stressing the need for more rigorous analysis. One delegation questioned why the report did not contain a section on UNDP cooperation with the international financial institutions.

74. In stressing the importance of ensuring a strong resource base, both core and non-core, delegations expressed concern that other (non-core) funds were growing faster than regular (core) funds, and sought assurances that the situation was not problematic. Delegations asked for clarification regarding an increase in local currency variations, querying whether it was the result of inflation or other factors. They also asked whether the 38 per cent of core resources allotted to poverty reduction would hold for the future.

75. One delegation wondered why UNDP follow-up to international conferences seemed limited to the Millennium Development Goals, and questioned if the MDGs indeed covered the full range of issues raised in such conferences of importance to UNDP. Another delegation underlined the importance of the MDGs for the least developed countries, adding that an increase in official development assistance was essential for family planning and reproductive health programmes in particular.

76. Several delegations requested that, where possible, UNDP continue to push for alignment with the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) and continue strengthening the resident coordinator function among United Nations organizations. One delegation underlined the importance of simplification and harmonization in the upcoming triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) of operational activities for development for 2004. They urged United Nations organizations to exert a financial push behind the TCPR review to ensure further reforms.

77. One delegation sought further clarification on which UNDP bureau was responsible for evaluating results-based management, how often evaluations were performed, if they were done in all programme countries, and whether or not there were repercussions for resources.

78. In response, the Associate Administrator provided an overview of the resource situation. With regard to programme expenditure, he explained that although core

resources had fallen short of the MYFF target for 2003, funding had not in fact diminished. He also pointed out that two UNDP bureaux were responsible for evaluating results-based management: the Bureau of Management for financial operations and the Operations Support Group for programming. With regard to the simplification and harmonization agenda, he stated that the organization was strongly committed to making significant progress in that area. He also assured delegations that the UNDP relationship with the Bretton Woods institutions was strong and growing.

79. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/6 on the UNDP report to the Economic and Social Council.

United Nations Population Fund

80. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) introduced the UNFPA report to the Economic and Social Council (E/2004/5 – DP/FPA/2004/2).

81. Delegations underscored that UNFPA needed increased core resources to assist developing countries in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, additional funding was required for reproductive health programmes. Efforts to simplify and harmonize programme and operational procedures, including the issuance of a revised guidance note on joint programming, were welcomed. Delegations commended UNFPA for its work in gender mainstreaming, including male involvement, as well as for using a culturally sensitive approach to programming. One delegation suggested further strengthening of results-based management. Delegations encouraged the funds and programmes to provide inputs to the TCPR process. Some delegations noted that the joint meeting of the Executive Boards should have decision-making authority and the issue should be looked at in the context of the TCPR.

82. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) thanked the delegations for their comments and noted that the tenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development provided an opportunity to mobilize resources, including from the private sector. He stated that UNFPA counted on the support of the Executive Board in advancing the United Nations reform agenda. He concurred on the importance of the funds and programmes providing inputs to the TCPR process.

83. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/6 on Reports to the Economic and Social Council.

IX. Follow-up to UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

United Nations Development Programme

84. Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Group Leader, UNDP HIV/AIDS Group, and the Deputy Executive Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), for their in-depth presentations on the UNDP follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting (DP/2004/13), and asked that the issue not be treated in a 'business as usual' manner at Executive Board sessions.

85. Several delegations appreciated the value of UNAIDS as an innovative programme but wanted a clearer sense of the future of the programme. One delegation asked for a more forward-looking appraisal on UNAIDS activities based on the recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board.

86. Underlining complications in organizing activities between co-sponsors, several delegations emphasized the importance of coordinating UNAIDS activities at the country level to ensure their maximum impact. In that regard, they suggested stricter application of rules of procedure on harmonization and simplification. One delegation suggested that UNDP should employ a multi-sectoral human rights based approach in its efforts to combat the epidemic. And while stressing the essential guidance of UNAIDS country coordinators, they pointed to political leadership as the best line of defense in fighting the epidemic.

87. Delegations also expressed a need for UNAIDS to intensify its work in fighting the stigma and discrimination of HIV/AIDS, and requested more information on such efforts at the annual session of the Executive Board in June.

88. In response, the Group Leader, UNDP HIV/AIDS Group, thanked delegations for their comments and the Executive Board for its guidance. She proceeded to highlight five areas that best defined UNDP work on HIV/AIDS: (a) a unique approach; (b) partnerships at the field level; (c) scaling up of development planning; (d) mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS issues; and (e) links between UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

89. She explained the unique approach of UNAIDS at the field level where it designed and set up specific frameworks based on project needs, taking into account the vast, complex legal and social networks in a country when developing programmes. With regard to partnering with local civil society, the Group Leader stated that UNAIDS groups in country offices helped to define the lead role of co-sponsors so that each would be challenged to respond in different areas of coordination. She elaborated that UNAIDS was scaling up its development planning and capacity building – five developing countries, for example, were working on identifying and enhancing leadership skills with the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) and local trade unions.

90. UNAIDS was also active in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS awareness in other UNDP practice areas and assisting government ministries in disseminating knowledge on the epidemic to local communities. She also highlighted UNAIDS efforts to liaise with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria at the country level in fulfilling government expectations and following the guidelines outlined by the

United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS. She concluded by informing delegations that UNAIDS would provide more detailed information at the annual session of the Board in June.

91. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/5 on UNDP follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting.

United Nations Population Fund

92. The Chief of the HIV/AIDS Branch, UNFPA, introduced the report entitled UNFPA Response: Implementing the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board recommendations of June 2003 (DP/FPA/2004/5).

93. Delegations welcomed the opportunity to consider on a regular basis the UNFPA response to recommendations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) and noted that it would contribute to a more harmonized and coherent United Nations system response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Emphasizing that coordination was vital in addressing the epidemic, delegations urged strengthening of country-level coordination among UNAIDS co-sponsors. Noting that future reports should be more analytical, delegations asked that they include an examination of how UNAIDS co-sponsors complement and support each other and how UNAIDS contributes to their HIV/AIDS work, including with regard to programme design. Delegations were interested in knowing what UNFPA could do to scale up national HIV-prevention strategies – including ensuring condom security – within poverty reduction strategies. Given the feminization of the epidemic, delegations stressed promoting women's reproductive health and rights and ensuring access to reproductive health services. Some delegations noted that it was not clear if the activities reported were those that were already under way or if they were the result of a structured response to PCB decisions. Additional information was requested on follow-up to PCB recommendations and it was suggested that relevant PCB decisions be annexed to future reports.

94. The Chief, HIV/AIDS Branch, UNFPA, appreciated the constructive comments and assured the Executive Board that UNFPA would provide additional information at the annual session. She noted that several mechanisms contributed to complementarity, including the UNAIDS unified budget and work plan; the inter-agency task teams; the convening agency modality within which co-sponsors worked together to map out actions, track activities and better coordinate the United Nations response; and the resident coordinator system. UNFPA held the convening role in two areas, young people and condom programming, and co-chaired the gender task team with UNIFEM. Although the Fund did not have the resources to scale up, it had documented processes and identified critical elements that countries could utilize for effective scaling up using other funding sources. Emphasizing that it was not business as usual, she underscored that UNFPA was now focusing attention on meeting the reproductive health needs of HIV-positive women. She noted that within the last six months UNFPA had identified HIV/AIDS focal points in all its country offices. Also, the virtual inter-divisional working group was holding discussions on HIV/AIDS via the Internet.

95. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/5 on follow-up to the fourteenth meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

UNFPA segment

X. Country programmes and related matters

96. The Executive Board approved the country programme documents for Benin, the Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Niger, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Cuba and Ecuador.

97. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) introduced the UNFPA intercountry programme, 2004-2007 (DP/FPA/2004/3) and the review of the UNFPA intercountry programme, 2000-2003 (DP/FPA/2004/3/Add.1).

98. Delegations expressed support for the intercountry programme, 2004-2007, noting that it would produce replicable experiences that would enable UNFPA to build partnerships and support national strategies to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Several delegations emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation and encouraged UNFPA to continue support for this area. One delegation hoped that the Fund's activities with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in its country would be strengthened. It encouraged the Fund to address urbanization issues, including service delivery to slum-dwellers. Delegations stressed that the intercountry programme activities should be tailored to meet country-level needs. They welcomed the focus on national capacity-building and strengthening of country offices. Future reporting on the linkages between the intercountry programme and country programmes was encouraged. Delegations were pleased to note that a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan would be developed.

99. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) thanked the delegations for their support, including for the announcements of increased funding and multi-year pledges. He underscored that the intercountry programme was designed to support country programme needs. He noted that training would be provided to country office staff and partners to better position UNFPA in line with the MYFF and the Fund's comparative advantage and strategic direction. He noted that providing services to disadvantaged and poor people was a major challenge in poverty reduction efforts. He concurred regarding continued support for South-South cooperation and partnerships with NGOs.

100. The Director, Technical Support Division, appreciated the supportive comments and assured the Executive Board that a strong emphasis on results-based management and monitoring and evaluation would guide the implementation of the intercountry programme. She underscored that UNFPA would ensure linkages and coherence between the interregional, regional and country programmes. She confirmed that South-South cooperation would be a strong element of the intercountry programme and noted that urbanization issues would be addressed.

101. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/8 on the UNFPA intercountry programme, 2004-2007.

102. Following Executive Board adoption of the decision on the intercountry programme, the delegation of the United States of America noted its concerns about certain aspects of the ICPD Programme of Action and ICPD+5. While joining the consensus on the decision, the delegation stated that its concerns remained relevant to the decision.

XI. Multi-year funding framework

Overview statement by the Executive Director

103. In her overview statement, the Executive Director, noted that the year 2004 had special significance for UNFPA. It was the midpoint in the implementation of the 20-year Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). It was also the year in which the Fund would expand its work of putting theory into practice to see if the transition process yielded the expected results. She underscored three keys for success in building a more effective UNFPA, namely, implementing the Fund's new strategic direction; strengthening operational effectiveness; and having the right staff in the right place at the right time.

104. The Executive Director highlighted the Fund's involvement in poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) processes and sector-wide approaches (SWAps), and noted the ways in which UNFPA was helping its country offices to strengthen the content of PRSPs. She stressed the importance of advancing the ICPD agenda and clearly linking it with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). She said UNFPA was an active partner in the Secretary-General's reform process and would continue to make the ICPD Programme of Action visible in the evolving United Nations development agenda. She highlighted some of the activities associated with the tenth anniversary of the ICPD, including most notably the field inquiry conducted by UNFPA, and thanked Sweden and Switzerland for their generous support for the field inquiry and other activities related to the tenth anniversary of ICPD. The Executive Director was encouraged by the increase in the number of countries that had pledged support to UNFPA in 2003: an all-time high of 147 contributing countries.

Multi-year funding framework

105. The Executive Director introduced the report on the multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007 (DP/FPA/2004/4).

106. Numerous delegations took the floor to congratulate the Executive Director on her comprehensive and visionary overview statement and to express praise and strong support for the 2004-2007 multi-year funding framework (MYFF). Delegations appreciated the clear linkages with the MDGs, PRSPs and SWAps. They welcomed the increased emphasis on policy development and underscored the importance of mainstreaming population into development policy and planning.

They supported the three results areas of the MYFF: reproductive health; population and development; and gender equality and women's empowerment. Delegations appreciated that HIV/AIDS prevention, adolescent reproductive health and gender had been mainstreamed in the three results areas. They welcomed the focus on national capacity development and a rights-based approach to programming, including the focus on culture.

107. Citing the Fund's contribution to poverty reduction identified in the MYFF, delegations emphasized the importance of addressing the needs of poor and vulnerable groups. Some delegations urged UNFPA to play an increased role in humanitarian responses, including promoting integration of reproductive health in emergency and relief operations. Delegations underscored the importance of forging effective partnerships and encouraged UNFPA to further work out the details of its partnerships. They urged the active involvement of young people in planning and implementing interventions that concerned them. Highlighting the importance of South-South cooperation, some delegations offered to make their experiences available to the Fund. Delegations drew attention to reproductive health commodity security and the issues of commodity pricing and availability. One delegation noted the lack of reference to least developed countries (LDCs) and urged higher visibility for activities undertaken in those countries.

108. While noting that it was pleased that access to reproductive health, including family planning, was a key element of the Fund's mission, one delegation expressed concern about the use of the term "reproductive health services" because some people had interpreted that the term included abortion as a family planning method. The delegation sought assurances that the term as used in the MYFF did not include support for abortion as a method of family planning. Citing the "A, B, C" approach to HIV/AIDS prevention, the delegation emphasized the priority of abstinence.

109. Delegations praised the clarity and simplified structure of the MYFF document and welcomed the participatory approach used in developing the MYFF. They commended the focus on gender equality and women's empowerment. One delegation stressed the need to avoid conditionality. Delegations urged UNFPA to continue focusing on results-based management; strengthening national capacities for data collection and analysis; and developing benchmarks. They appreciated the alignment of the MYFF with the biennial support budget. Delegations emphasized that the MYFF should be an essential part of a resource mobilization strategy and urged donors to increase their contributions to the Fund, particularly with respect to core resources.

110. Several delegations expressed concern that assistance to population and reproductive health programmes was below the ICPD targets. They underscored that ICPD goals and the MDGs could not be achieved without adequate resources. It was emphasized that the lack of resources denied poor women access to reproductive health services, thus contributing to high levels of maternal mortality; constrained the fight against HIV/AIDS; and was reversing development gains.

111. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their strong support and for recognizing the contribution of UNFPA to poverty reduction and capacity-building, including through linking reproductive health to poverty reduction strategies and national programme priorities. She underscored the centrality of population and reproductive health issues to achieving the MDGs. She thanked the donors for their contributions, including those that had announced increments and multi-year

pledges. She appreciated donor support for the Fund's work in promoting a rights-based and culturally sensitive approach to programming. She assured delegations that the MYFF would not introduce conditionalities. She highlighted the Fund's partnerships with WHO, the World Bank and UNAIDS, among others. She updated the Executive Board on the regional reviews under way on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of ICPD. Regarding LDCs, she stated that priority to LDCs was mainstreamed in the work of UNFPA and in its resource allocation system. She noted that 67 per cent of the Fund's resources went to "category A" countries, which included all the LDCs. She appreciated the offer regarding South-South cooperation. She underscored the centrality of reproductive health commodity security to UNFPA-supported programming.

112. Concerning the comment on the term "reproductive health services", the Executive Director stated that the Fund's mandate and reproductive health terminology were derived from the ICPD Programme of Action. She cited paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action which, inter alia, states that "in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning". Regarding the "A, B, C" approach to HIV/AIDS prevention, she confirmed that in keeping with the international consensus UNFPA promoted all three components.

113. The Chief of the Strategic Planning Office appreciated the comments made by delegations and thanked them for the guidance they had provided throughout the MYFF development process. She agreed that there was a need to improve data at all levels, as well as to strengthen monitoring and evaluation and to have adequate baselines for qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure progress in attaining results. She assured the Executive Board that UNFPA would continue to invest in capacity-building and results-based management. She stated that the MYFF was strong on gender issues and noted that the Fund maintained close coordination with UNIFEM. She took note of the request to report in more detail on the Fund's partnership strategy. She underscored that the Fund believed in strong families, including attention to gender equity, healthy adolescent development, and women's and girls' empowerment.

114. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/7 on the UNFPA multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007.

115. Following the Executive Board's adoption of the decision on the MYFF, the delegation of the United States of America noted its concerns about certain aspects of the ICPD Programme of Action and ICPD+5. While joining the consensus on the decision, the delegation stated that its concerns remained relevant to the decision.

XII. Other matters

Review of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

116. The Chief of the Reproductive Health Branch, UNFPA, introduced the report entitled Review of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (DP/FPA/2004/CRP.1).

117. The Executive Board endorsed the recommendation contained in the report to discontinue the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health. The

Board recommended that the secretariats of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA continue to strengthen their coordination in the area of health.

118. The Executive Board adopted decision 2004/11 on the review of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health.

Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP

HIV/AIDS regional initiatives

119. Following preliminary comments by the President of the Executive Board, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Executive Director of UNFPA summarized global regional initiatives to fight HIV/AIDS. Representatives of the World Food Programme (WFP), UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) then briefed the joint meeting on efforts to fight the epidemic in eastern and southern Africa, emphasizing links among HIV/AIDS, nutrition and governance.

120. Delegations agreed that HIV/AIDS was a growing threat urgently requiring greater attention, action and funds. Coordinated action and results-monitoring were needed among United Nations organizations, with the roles of each clearly defined. One speaker suggested that UNAIDS should be the main coordinator at the country level. Several speakers requested that more information on coordinated United Nations efforts be provided at future joint meetings of the Boards. Delegations also called for stronger linkages among United Nations organizations and other groups.

121. Several delegations voiced concern over the danger of the dispersal of resources owing to the wide diversity of donors and programmes. To harness resources effectively, it was suggested that every country implement "three ones": one national AIDS strategy, one national AIDS commission and one way to monitor and report progress. Greater joint funding was also proposed.

122. The panel acknowledged the danger of resources dispersal, which could be addressed through the "three ones". As for results, the common country assessment (CCA) acted as a joint gauge. The bulk of funds and resources were given to governments, which should be helped to channel them effectively. On all fronts, more accountability was needed.

123. In response to suggestions that each country's HIV/AIDS strategy should be incorporated into development planning and the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) process, the panel said that the PRSP process was a cornerstone of national HIV/AIDS efforts, along with sector-wide approaches (SWAps) and nationally driven coordinating mechanisms.

124. Many delegations emphasized the interconnection among HIV/AIDS, poverty, food insecurity and governance issues. One delegation asked for a report at a future joint Board meeting on coordinated support for food security, specifically cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The panel replied that attention to interconnected issues was growing; that multi-partner efforts were promoting agriculture through conservation farming and

other methods; and that FAO played an important role in nutrition, food security, orphan care and other areas.

125. Delegations said that an effective response to HIV/AIDS also involved taking actions to build local capacity; empower girls and women; promote the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; support public health initiatives and increase access to social services; balance prevention, treatment and care; reduce the price of drugs and increase their availability; build a continuum of humanitarian assistance to development; secure more stable and predictable funding; enlist greater support of the private sector; and intensify scaling-up.

126. In closing the discussion, the President of the UNICEF Executive Board requested that presentations and responses at next year's joint meeting of the Boards should better reflect coordinated action and mechanisms.

Simplification and harmonization

127. The Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme, summarized progress in simplification and harmonization on behalf of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP. The 2003 Chairs of the Programme and Management Groups briefed on the Joint Programming Guidance Note and its links to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) results matrix, followed by the Resident Coordinator, a.i., in Niger who described country-level experiences in preparing the results matrix, identifying opportunities for joint programming.

128. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of the simplification and harmonization agenda for stakeholders in development. Fundamentally, it was about doing business more effectively and efficiently. The United Nations work was part of a broader agenda agreed by the international community in Rome in early 2003; it would form part of the forthcoming discussions on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development (TCPR). The meeting agreed that the developments reported in June 2003 and on this occasion demonstrated the importance of the subject in relation to cross-cutting issues such as food security and HIV/AIDS, and its complexity – it included such issues as financing modalities, common houses and services, leadership by resident coordinators and whether human resource management provided adequate incentives to collaborate.

129. The meeting was impressed by progress but impatient for further results. It recognized that the questions posed by the work were difficult and in some cases threatening. There was a need to improve contacts with agencies working on humanitarian issues and to consider the implications for the specialized agencies. The meeting wanted to see imaginative thinking about the broad simplification and harmonization agenda in the near future and to be involved in it, for example, through brainstorming sessions.

130. The President of the Executive Board of WFP presented an informal paper, The role of the annual joint meeting", responding to governance questions raised at the 2003 joint meeting. Two questions were posed: (a) whether to make the joint meeting a decision-making body; or (b) to continue with the existing mandate and aim to improve its usefulness. There was broad support for the suggestions in the paper for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the joint meeting under its

existing mandate. They would be pursued by the Board presidents, who would meet after the session to plan the next joint meeting. Opinions varied regarding the option of investing the joint meeting with decision-making authority. Some delegations regarded it as a logical step in the evolution of governance; others did not think it would add value to the existing machinery. It was noted that the question was already under review: paragraph 28 of Economic and Social Council resolution E/2003/L.20 on TCPR requests "a report on the assessment of the value-added of the joint meetings of the Executive Boards and their impact on the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council and...recommendations as appropriate". The joint meeting looked forward to an early issues and options paper for informal discussion with the membership, preferably in March 2004.

The resident coordinator system

The Resident Coordinator Assessment Centre

131. Opening remarks by the President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA preceded an introduction to the Assessment Centre by the Director of the United Nations Development Group Office (UNDGO). Two resident coordinators who had undergone the new assessment process described their experiences.

132. Delegations questioned the appropriateness of self-selection for the assessment, particularly in comparing the old and new systems. They wanted candidates for resident representative/resident coordinator positions to be drawn from the widest possible field and queried the adequacy of the applicant pool, noting the need for gender balance, coaching and learning plans. They asked about developing country representation and the pre-selection and progress measurement systems. They felt that special representatives of the Secretary-General working alongside resident coordinators should undergo a similar assessment.

133. Speakers asked if the increasing complexity of the resident representative/resident coordinator/security coordinator role was consistent with simplification and harmonization, and whether the assessment process drained time and funds from substantive work.

134. The panel clarified that all future candidates would undergo the assessment, focusing on competencies and substance. The process – described by those who had experienced it as unbiased and geographically and gender-balanced – lasted three days. Nominating agencies covered the cost, ensuring nomination of only the ablest candidates.

135. The Director, UNDGO, described the new procedure for identifying and training candidates at an early stage, adding that the various surveys used in the past facilitated comparison between old and new assessments. She added that the company conducting the assessment employed staff from a wide variety of backgrounds and countries.

Video link with the Lesotho country team

136. The country team in Lesotho, introduced by the resident representative/resident coordinator, explained how the resident coordinator system in Lesotho supported the common country assessment, United Nations Development Assistance Framework and poverty reduction strategy paper processes, and their alignment with the Millennium Development Goals.

137. Speakers agreed that progress made in the resident representative/resident coordinator system was yielding tangible results, though resources destined for Lesotho had dwindled even for HIV/AIDS programmes, making 'scaling up' impossible. Some suggested that work towards a stronger system could be funded by the United Nations as a whole or by individual countries. They emphasized that a resident representative/resident coordinator needed a balance of personal qualities and substantive knowledge. It was stressed that in crisis and post-crisis situations United Nations organizations had to work in coordination, not in competition with each other.

Closing remarks by the UNDP Administrator

138. The Administrator stated that, in future, resident representatives/resident coordinators would contribute to the evaluations of country team members with the support of their respective regional directors. He noted the need for additional resident representative/resident coordinator candidates with humanitarian backgrounds. He acknowledged delegations' funding suggestions, mentioned the trust fund for the resident coordinator system support, and indicated that core resources were increasing. The United Nations country presence should be adequate and relevant rather than large and fragmented – and United Nations organizations must work in close, constant collaboration with donors and governments in order to remain relevant.

Security

139. Following opening remarks by the President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA, the Executive Director of UNICEF, representing UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and UNICEF, briefed delegations on United Nations staff safety and security. She said that the full text of her statement would be made available on the UNICEF web site.

140. Delegations encouraged intensification of efforts at all levels to ensure staff safety and security, including strengthening local support to United Nations missions, ensuring investigations of attacks, and punitive measures against perpetrators of crimes. The role of host governments in bringing to justice those responsible for attacks/threats was underscored. Delegations inquired if the lack of cooperation from host governments resulted from lack of capacity or lack of commitment. They asked about measures being undertaken to restore confidence in the United Nations. Delegations were interested in knowing how to ensure

cooperation between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations organizations.

141. Delegations inquired if security costs were covered by the regular budget of the United Nations and if recurring security costs impacted development assistance delivery costs. Noting that security costs should not overburden regular resources, speakers asked what funds were allocated by United Nations funds and programmes for security. Delegations asked about the criteria used to classify countries as high or low risk and inquired if security measures were different in those countries. One delegation asked about the recommendation concerning United Nations common premises.

142. Delegations underscored that concrete and visible results at the country level could be a source of local security. Information gathering and reliable threat analysis were underscored. Some delegations noted the formation of a committee by the United Nations to investigate the terrorist bombings in Baghdad, and stressed the importance of doing the same whenever United Nations personnel were subjected to similar treatment.

143. In responding, the Executive Director, UNICEF, concurred that the United Nations needed to regain the humanitarian space within which a degree of security was ensured because United Nations staffs were recognized as neutral and impartial providers of humanitarian support and development assistance. She agreed that cooperation with NGOs was essential. Regarding the budget for security, she noted that in 2002-2003 the budget for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) was $53 million, about $12 million of it coming from the regular budget and the remainder from other agencies' budgets. For the 2004-2005 biennium, the budget figure was $86 million, with $15 million being from the regular budget. She stated that there were both one-time and recurring costs associated with security. Concerning common premises, she clarified that there was no change in policy, the recommendation being that they be looked at on a case-by-case basis in terms of security requirements.

144. She noted that UNSECOORD had primary responsibility for determining the security phase in a given country. The representative of UNSECOORD added that at the country level the designated official and his/her team determined the security phase based on a risk/threat analysis. Furthermore, security phases 3, 4 and 5 could only be declared with the approval of the Secretary-General.